6th and 7th Grade Literary Playlist

Driving Question: How can we use music to communicate about characters and themes in a story?

Content:
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.1 Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.5 Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.5 Analyze how a drama's or poem's form or structure (e.g., soliloquy, sonnet) contributes to its meaning.

Major Products: In this project, students read and analyze a work of literature and develop custom music playlists that portray the development of themes and/or characters over the course of the story. Students might self-select a work to read or work with their Reader's Workshop Book. Taking on the role of curators for a streaming music service (such as Spotify, Soundcloud, Pandora, or YouTube) that is producing a special edition collection of literary-inspired playlists, students break the literary work into sections, identify key themes or phases of character development in each section, and choose a song to capture the essence of each theme/character development.

Public Presentation: Students publish their playlists, along with a detailed set of liner notes that provide an evidence-based analysis of the themes or character development throughout the written work and a rationale for the selection of each song. Students share their playlists and liner notes via social media and/or on a class website.